

## The Scottish Championships 2009

Dear Shooters,

The Scottish Rifle Association has reviewed how the Scottish Championships should be organised in view of the problems experienced in recent years at Barry Ranges and the extra costs imposed by Landmarc which have required significant increases in entry fees. As a result of the extra costs this year the Championships have only just broken even despite a very welcome increase in the number of entries and we could be faced with increasing the entry fees again for next year which could affect the number of entries. Also, a significant number of shooters from each of the Home Countries will be travelling to South Africa in Spring 2009 which together with the current economic climate may also adversely affect entries. Consequently, we have come to the conclusion that there could be significant organisational and financial risks in running the 2009 Championships at Barry and it has been decided to transfer the 2009 event to Blair Atholl. The arrangements for the Championships in 2010 and onwards will depend on the experience gained from running the event at Blair Atholl.

To some extent this will be an experimental change, using the electronic targets at Blair Atholl which have proved very successful in their first year of operation. The plan is to run the normal programme over 3 days, including shooting at long range and the Lawrence Trophy International Match. The electronic targets allow shooting to be completed quickly and the timing for each detail will be controlled to ensure that the full programme can be completed in time. Because there is no requirement for anyone in the butts, shooting can continue all day without any breaks apart from changing distance. However, there is a limit to the size of the entry because the range only has 6 targets and we will be looking at how many entries can be accommodated – at the present time we are looking at between 60 and 70 competitors but we are investigating options for increasing the capacity on the range. The dates for the Championships will be 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June.

Clearly this will be a significant change to the way we run the Scottish Championships but we believe in the long run it will be the most effective way of overcoming the problems we have experienced in the past, and likely to suffer in the future if we try to continue to run the Championships at Barry Ranges. We hope that we will continue to get your support for the Scottish Championships and we will do whatever we can to make this change a success.

Best regards,

Tim Kidner

Chairman Scottish Rifle Association